

“Mississippi got its first vote on tort reform in the House of Representatives today and the result was that a majority doesn’t rule anymore.

For the first time in years, the House passed a measure today that would require a 2/3 vote instead of a simple majority to bypass a committee and bring an item to the floor for consideration. In prompting this extraordinary measure, the House leadership disregarded a House rule that has stood for decades. This procedural move was a clear attempt by the House Leadership to keep a popular tort reform bill from ever reaching the House floor.

First, the House Leadership sent the tort reform bill to a committee headed by a plaintiff attorney. Now, the measure passed today makes it harder for the 60+ members of the House who want tort reform – and their thousands of supporters across Mississippi -- to bypass that committee and get their bill to the floor for a simple up or down vote.

Mississippi’s State Senate sent a strong message last week as it passed tort reform legislation designed to stop lawsuit abuse. Speaker McCoy has refused to publicly state his personal position on tort reform, but his actions today against pro-tort reform House members and Mississippi citizens speak louder than words.”